

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 OMB-01 /108 W

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P 141042Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7813

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 662

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR NO FR

SUBJECT: SOLZHENITSYN TO NORWAY?

1. NORWEGIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE VALLE ANNOUNCED MORNING OF FEB. 14 THAT "NORWEGIAN LAW WILL BE NO HINDRANCE TO SOLZHENITSYN'S COMING TO NORWAY". AN APPLICATION FOR A RESIDENCE PERMIT WOULD BE HANDLED IN THE NORMAL FASHION, SHE SAID, AND SOLZHENITSYN WOULD NOT BE BARRED FROM PURSUING POLITICAL ACTIVITIES HERE.

2. VALLE'S STATEMENT CAME FOLLOWING PRESS REPORTS THAT SOLZHENITSYN MAY COME TO NORWAY OR SWEDEN. REPORTS NOTE THAT SOLZHENITSYN WAS INVITED TO NORWAY BY FOUR NORWEGIAN INTELLECTUALS IN 1969.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF EVENING FEB. 13, ONE OF THESE FOUR, ARTIST VICTOR SPARRE, SAID HE SENT CABLE EARLIER IN AFTERNOON TO AN EXILED DISSIDENT HE IDENTIFIED AS POREMSKY TO REMIND SOLZHENITSYN OF THE STANDING INVITATION TO COME TO NORWAY.

4. SPARE SAID IT IS "A VERY REAL POSSIBILITY" THAT SOLZHENITSYN WILL COME HERE. SPARRE INDICATED HE HAS ALREADY BEGUN TENTATIVE

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ARRANGEMENTS FOR A HOUSE IN ASKER, A FAR SUBURB OF OSLO WHERE HE

HIMSELF LIVES, FOR SOLZHENTSYN AND HIS FAMILY.

5. SPARRE TOLD EMBOFF HE HAD JUST HEARD THAT SOVIET WRITER VLADIMIR MAKSIMOV, WHO HE DESCRIBED AS A "DEVOUT, ALMOST FANATICAL" CHRISTIAN, HAS BEEN GRANTED PERMISSION TO GO TO FRANCE, AND HE NOTED THAT MAKSIMOV'S TRAVEL REQUEST HAD BEEN PENDING FOR "SOME TIME." SPARRE SAID MAKSIMOV IS "A REAL PROLETARIAT" WHO WILL BE UNABLE TO COPE WITH LIFE IN THE WEST IF HE DOES INDEED GO TO FRANCE.

6. SPARRE ALSO SAID HE HAS HEARD THAT ALEKSANDER GALICH, ANOTHER DISSIDENT IN MOSCOW, HAS BEEN ILL THE LAST FEW DAYS. (COMMENT: HE DESCRIBED THE ILLNESS AS A LIGHT HEART ATTACK, BUT WE BELIEVE THIS DESCRIPTION MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM AN ERROR IN TRANSLATION.)

7. SPARRE ATTRIBUTED HIS INFORMATION ABOUT MAKSIMOV AND GALICH TO "DISSIDENT SOURCES IN THE WEST," WHOM HE DECLINED TO IDENTIFY.

8. SPARRE TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS CONTACT WITH SOVIET DISSIDENTS BEGAN IN 1969 WITH THE LETTER HE AND THREE OTHER NORWEGIAN INTELLECTUALS SENT TO ALEKSANDER SOLZHENITSYN. SPARRE SAID THIS LETTER STRUCK A RESPONSIVE CHORD WITH SOLZHENITSYN (WHO MENTIONED IT IN HIS NOBEL PRIZE ADDRESS) AND OTHER DISSIDENTS, INCLUDING SAKHAROV, MAKSIMOV AND GALICH, AND HAS RESULTED IN A SERIES OF CONTACTS WHICH HAVE GROWN VERY FREQUENT IN LAST YEAR. MAKSIMOV REQUESTED IN MID-JANUARY THROUGH HIS SISTER IN ISRAEL THAT SPARRE TELEPHONE HIM ONCE A WEEK.

9. SPARRE VISITED MOSCOW (IN A GROUP TOUR AFTER HE WAS REFUSED A VISA WHEN HE APPLIED FOR IT INDIVIDUALLY) LAST DECEMBER AND MET WITH SAKHAROV, MAKSIMOV AND GALICH. HE WAS TO MEET SOLZHENITSYN, BUT SOLZHENITSYN WAS UNABLE TO COME INTO MOSCOW BEFORE SPARRE'S GROUP TOUR DEPARTED.

10. COMMENT: FROM LETTERS TO SPARRE FROM LEADING DISSIDENTS INCLUDING SOLZHENITSYN, WHICH HE SHOWED TO EMBOFF AND FROM SPARRE'S DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF HIS DECEMBER MEETINGS IN MOSCOW, HE APPEARS TO BE HELD IN HIGH ESTEEM BY SOVIET DISSIDENTS, WHO SEEM TO GAIN SOLACE FROM HIS SYMPATHY AND MORAL SUPPORT AS A WESTERN INTELLECTUAL. HIS LINKS TO EXILED SOVIET DISSIDENTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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INCLUDING PANIN IN PARIS, AND HIS FREQUENT PHONE CONTACT WITH DISSIDENTS IN MOSCOW, WE BELIEVE GIVE CONSIDERABLE RELIABILITY TO HIS INFORMATION ON THE WELFARE AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISSIDENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. IN RELATION TO JUSTICE MINISTER'S COMMENTS, FONMIN ADVISES THAT THIS WAS A SIMPLE STATEMENT OF NORWEGIAN LAW AND IS NOT TO BE INTERPRETED AS AN INVITATION. BYRNE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL FREEDOM, EXILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974OSLO00662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740232/aaaabedw.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOLZHENITSYN TO NORWAY?
TAGS: PFOR, UR, NO, FR, (SOLZHENITSYN, ALEKSANDR I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005